

**ENHANCING A SUSTAINABLE KNOWLEDGE BASEDECONOMY
THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR LEDDEVELOPMENT:
“A Case Study of Private Higher Learning
Institutions in Rwanda”.**

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Abstract

The government of Rwanda has a vision to transform the nation to a middle income country by the year 2020. Within this vision, private sector-led development is one of the major pillars envisaged to promote gravitation towards national goals. It is hoped that through private sector led development, sustainable economic growth and development will be realized in the long-run, as a higher stock of skilled human capital will trigger more productivity in the economy hence positively impacting the national income of Rwanda. Entrepreneurship has been identified as one of the most important strategies for enhancing job creation thus creating sustainable economic growth and development especially for the youth and the graduating students from different universities/institutions. The main objective of this research is to assess the contribution of private higher learning institutions in entrepreneurship development and job creation in Rwanda. The study considered mainly primary data and both qualitative and quantitative information from different individuals and institutions where graduates from private higher learning institutions are currently working. Different sampling techniques were employed to collect the relevant data; and these included: purposive sampling and snowball sampling. For comparative analysis, some graduates currently not working were also sampled to study the impeding factors. Data were analyzed using SPSS, and both statistical and non-statistical methods of analysis were employed. Findings showed that private higher learning institutions have not only contributed to entrepreneurship development and job creation but also enhanced the knowledge-based economy in Rwanda. Private Higher Learning Institutions in Rwanda have enhanced the performance of entrepreneurs up to 67.3% from 2008 to 2012. This figure is an average of the responses from the informants investigated from the surveyed institutions and individuals.

Keywords: Knowledge based-economy, Private Sector, Private Higher Learning Institution.